

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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## **HINCHEY: POWELL MADE STRONG CASE, BUT NOT FOR WAR**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today issued the following statement in reaction to the presentation Secretary of State Colin Powell made to the United Nations Security Council:

"The case for disarming Saddam Hussein is a strong one, and Secretary Powell skillfully and forcefully reiterated that case today. I have never doubted that Saddam is a brutal dictator and I fully share the goal of eliminating weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and throughout the world.

"The question the world now faces, however, is whether war is the best way to accomplish that goal. I have not been convinced that it is. Before going to war, we must exhaust all alternatives, such as the continuation of inspections and diplomatic measures. The Bush Administration must also provide the American public with details about the consequences the war would have at home and abroad. We should not be asked to take this road blindly.

"It is important to remember that the clear and present danger to our national security is terrorism. Our most important weapon in the battle against that threat is the international coalition of support we currently enjoy. Maintaining that coalition and keeping our focus on terrorism should be paramount in our minds as we deal with circumstances in Iraq."